

weather report



52°

10:30 a.m.
Thursday

Today

- Sunset, 4:35 p.m.
- **Saturday**
- Sunrise, 6:28 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 40 degrees
- Humidity 23 percent
- Sky clear and sunny
- Winds light from the north
- Barometer 30.28 inches and falling
- Record High today 80° (2005)
- Record Low today 3° (1940)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	50°
Low Wednesday	24°
Precipitation	none
This month	0.28
Year to date	18.89
Above normal	0.13 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high near 62, winds out of the northwest at 5 to 10 switching to the south and a low around 31. Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 66, winds breezy out of the west at 10 to 30 mph and a low around 29.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Mostly sunny with a high near 54 and a low around 34. Monday: Mostly sunny with a high near 56 and a low around 29. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 50 and a low around 27.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



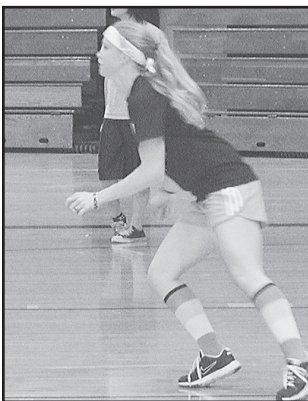
10:30 a.m.

- Wheat — \$6.66 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.69
 - Corn — \$6.38 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.35
 - Milo — \$6.06 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$10.38 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$11.21
 - Millet — \$5 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$28.70 cwt.
 - Confection — no bid
 - Pinto beans — \$28
- (Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News



Wiffle ball tourney held

During the week between sports seasons the Family, Career and Community Leaders have a wiffle ball tournament for the students of Goodland High School at Max Jones Fieldhouse. See photos on Page 10.

City upholds truck zoning code

By Tom Betz

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Questions were raised more than two months ago about allowing semi trucks to be parked in residential areas, and after the fourth round of discussion the commissioners agreed by consensus not to change the existing zoning language and to have the city employees enforce the city ordinance.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he was not going to go through all the background on the issue, and said the commissioners face the same question about whether to enforce the zoning ordinance that says semi trucks are not to be parked in residential areas or to somehow modify the zoning ordinance.

He said one suggestion during the last discussion was a possible conditional use permit, and he said he had included a draft form in the

commission packets. Another suggestion was doing a survey, and he said he had a way to do a survey if the commissioners felt that was the way to go.

He said he had one person who wanted to talk to the commissioners about the issue.

John Golden, former county and city commissioner, said he was at the meeting to speak in opposition to having semi trucks in city residential areas.

He said when he served as a county commissioner he was appointed to a national committee on transportation, and was told at a meeting that semi trucks do 9,000 times more damage to an asphalt road than a passenger vehicle.

He said when he was in Topeka a man brought up the same figure about the damage, and he felt it was a reliable estimate of the damage

semi trucks do to asphalt roads.

Golden said when the state builds an asphalt road they build about seven inches or more of asphalt plus a foot of base. He said he asked Public Works Director Rich Simon about the thickness of asphalt on the street in residential area of Goodland. He said Simon said it was about four inches.

Golden said the city does not have any base under that as the oil and rock was put right on the street.

"We do have certain major streets that do handle the grain traffic," he said, "but not in residential areas. We need to think about safety and it is very touchy where you have kids playing and it could be hazardous to their health."

He said there is no reason for the damage to infrastructure to happen.

"As stewards you need to con-

sider the disastrous damage that can be done to our streets," he said. "I am not in favor of it. I trust you will act accordingly. Don't try anything. Just say No."

Commissioner Gary Farris said in some places he feels the four inches is down to one or two inches.

Golden said if you park a truck on the street for a long time the tires will sink and leave visible damage.

Mayor John Garcia said the city ordinance does not allow a truck to be parked on the street longer than two hours.

Commissioner Bill Finley asked if Golden had any figures on an unloaded trailer.

Farris said an unloaded truck and trailer per square inch is not going to be more than a car.

Golden said he was against allowing the semis on a residential street.

"The question remains what do we do?" Garcia said.

Gerber said the easiest way is to enforce the ordinance as it is written on the books.

"You are certainly going to have people upset," he said, "and on the other side make people happy."

Finley said he was disappointed he had not had any phone calls on the issue.

"Are we making more of this than it needs to be?"

Finley said he had to agree with Golden if it costs the city more money to keep up the streets it is a problem. He said another safety concern is if they are on the street it can be a problem to get around or see around.

"I am going to do a 180 on this," he said. "For the good of Goodland

See TRUCKS, Page 5



Construction begins on hospital renal dialysis unit

Monday morning people gathered in the hallway outside of the plastic wall covering the construction zone at Goodland Regional Medical Center to mark the beginning of construction of the dialysis unit.

Miller Construction is handling the remodeling, and work actually began on Friday to tear out the wall between the two rooms and the ceiling and floor to make room for the dialysis machines and support equipment.

The total cost for the construction project is about \$200,000 and when completed the unit can eventually handle up to eight dialysis patients per day. Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, said they hope to start out with four dialysis machines and be able to handle four patients a day.

The hospital has been working on the design and state and federal approval for the dialysis unit for more than 18 months. The plan is to have the clinic up and running by spring.



First step taken to annex three lots in industrial park

By Tom Betz

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The first step in the annexation of three lots in the industrial park was taken with passage of a resolution at Monday's city commission meeting.

City Manager Doug Gerber said it was a friendly annexation meaning the people want to be annexed into the city. He said the three lots are south of Finley Motors, and the only lots that remain in that industrial park that were not part of the corporate limits of the city.

The commissioners passed the resolution and set a date for public hearing on the annexation to be at the second commission meeting in January.

Representatives from SunOpta and Crop Production Services were at the meeting, but

did not speak to the commissioners.

Gerber said the resolution would be sent to all the taxing districts as one of the steps the annexation process has to go through.

Mayor John Garcia said he had no issues with the annexation, and none of the other commissioners said they had problem.

Commissioner Bill Finley made the motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded. Commissioner Gary Farris joined Garcia, Finley and Fairbanks in voting in favor. Commissioner Chris Zimmerman was not present for the vote, but did arrive later in the meeting.

In other business the commission:

- Held a public hearing on a possible conflict of interest question dealing with one of the people who has applied to have housing rehabilitation done through the Community

Development Block Grant the city has.

The potential conflict of interest was that Kathy Wolak, who had applied for the housing rehabilitation, is the mother of Lukas Wolak, a city employee.

No one spoke against allowing Wolak to participate in the housing program.

- Included in the consent agenda items approved was a cereal malt beverage special permit for On the Bricks Cafe to sell beer from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday as part of a special promotion for the opening of Kansas pheasant season.
- Approved an extension of time for Randall Fixsen to finish work on his house at 1222 Syracuse Ave., and to proceed with demolition bids for unfit structures at 322 W. Seventh and 1613 Colorado Ave.

City Building Inspector and Fire Chief Brian

James said Fixsen was the only one of the property owners who had complied with the commission's requirements when they were given an extension 90 days ago. He said the other two homeowners had done some work on the houses, but did not complete what the commissioners had said needed to be done.

He said he sent letter out to each homeowner telling them what they had to have done, and said Fixsen was the only one who met the requirements.

Fixsen was present and said he was trying to get done, and had accidentally broken out a basement window while he was painting.

Gerber said the city should extend Fixsen to allow him to finish the rehabilitation of the home, and to celebrate his success.

"For the 20 we have on the list he is the best we have," Gerber said.

